

## UTILITIES STAFF REPORT – CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

Director/Department Head	Dane Sorensen
Staff:	
Utility Operation Manager	Gray Lahrman
Utility Lead Operator	Christopher Wieting
Utility Operator	Wacey Henager
Utility Operator	Anothy Pennell
Utility Operator	Tyler Lloyd
Utility Operator	Jeffrey Gatlin
Utility Maintenance Worker	Bill Stevens
City Electrician	Joseph Sell
Public Works Admin Assistant	Micaela Betts

### Facilities Managed:

- **Wastewater Facilities**

- **Wastewater plants**

- South Regional wastewater treatment facility; 319,000 gallons/day
    - Arrowhead Ranch Wastewater Treatment Facility 85,000

gallons/day

- Arrowhead Drip Fields; 30 Acres
    - Big Sky Ranch Wastewater Treatment Facility; 78,800 gallons/day
    - Big Sky Ranch Drip Field; 18 Acres

- **Lift Stations**

- South Regional Lift Station
    - Arrowhead Ranch WWTP Lift Station
    - Lift Station 1 – Hays Street
    - Lift Station 2 – DSISD
    - Lift Station 3 – Caliterra
    - Lift Station 4 – Arrowhead Ranch Subdivision
    - Lift Station 5 – DSRP
    - Lift Station 6 – Big Sky 1
    - Lift Station 7- Big Sky 2

- **Collection System**

- Big Sky, Arrowhead, Caliterra, Downtown Dripping Springs, Howard Ranch Townhomes, 290 Commercial District, Retreat, 4 DSISD Facilities, North Forty, Founders Ridge, Texas Heritage Village, Heritage, Cannon Ranch, Driftwood Ranch Side and Driftwood Creek Side, Driftwood Golf & Ranch

- **Reuse:**

- Distributions Facilities**

- Reuse Distribution Pumps.
    - Reuse Distribution Treated Effluent Main 3.6 Miles
    - Storage; Pond & Tanks 12 million Gallon

- **Outfalls**
  - **TLAP Fields at South Regional Plant**; 40 Acres - 127,500 GPD
  - **Caliterra Irrigation** (Operated by SI Environmental); 84 Acres- 186,000 GPD
  - **Dripping Springs Sports and Recreation Park**; 15.2 Acres – 33,000 GPD
  - **Founders Memorial Park**; 5 Acres -12,000 GPD
- **Public Water Systems**
  - **Driftwood Creek**; 47 Connections
  - **Driftwood Ranch** (Golf); 28 Connections
  - **Cannon Ranch**; 98 Connections
  - **Blue Blazes**; 0 Connections

### Operations:

- **Wastewater Operations**
  - **Lift Station Checks** -Operators inspect all lift stations on a weekly basis. During this inspection we verify ATS is working, high level float alarm, generator fuels, pump amperage, lift station cleaning.
  - **Treatment Facilities** – 7 days a week 365 days a year the Wastewater Treatment Plants are logged in. Operators collect flow data, conduct sampling and adjust treatment process.
  - **Preventative Maintenance** – Preventative maintenance is performed on pumps, blowers, drips skid, filters and all other mechanical equipment we operate. Generators are serviced annually.
  - **Reactive Maintenance**- Staff respond to damaged or broken equipment in the system that needs repaired or replaced.
  - **Emergency Response** -The on-call operator is responsible for responding to any emergency called in by residents or SCADA. Operator takes corrective action 24/7. Back-up on call can be called in if problem needs extra hands to be resolved
  - **Sampling / Compliance Tracking**- Routine sampling and monitoring on effluent conditions is required. Reports are created for Monthly effluent report along with other TCEQ correspondence.
  - **Low pressure Sewage inspection** – Before anyone on low pressure sewer can obtain a certificate of occupancy, they need to undergo a low-pressure sewer inspection performed by a wastewater operator. This inspection is a line of defense to inspect for leaks caused by construction.

- **Public Water Systems (PWS)**

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- **Water Meter Installs** – Operators work with utility billing staff to set all water meters on the City PWS.
- **Customer Service Inspections** – 82 Inspections Performed FY 2025. All new construction must obtain a Customer Service Inspection performed by a licensed inspector on the Utilities Staff. The purpose of this inspection is to prevent backflow and cross connection on the PWS.
- **Flushing** – The PWS requires monthly flushing of all dead-end mains to obtain an adequate chlorine residual in the system. Operators perform this monthly for the entire PWS. Operators' flush system when new construction is added or during repairs to ensure disinfection and to clear hypo chlorination.
- **Sampling**- Operators routinely take bacteriological samples from a rotating sample site representative of the system. This is performed monthly and will increase to a weekly basis as the system grows.
- **Preventive Maintenance**- Operators perform preventive maintenance on water systems like valve exercising, maintaining clay-valve, and winterizing systems.
- **Leak Response**- Operators respond to leaks in the system called in by residents and staff. Leaks are located and repaired.
- **Drought Contingency Enforcement**- Monitor water system to ensure compliance. (*The new Utility Inspector position will be responsible for monitoring usage.*)
- **New Construction Operations**- Operator works with 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspector and construction company to perform valve operations and ensure continuous pressure on the system. Flushing and bacteriological sampling are performed during this process.

- **Reuse System**

- **Operate and Maintain Sports Park & Founders Park Irrigation**  
– Operator maintain and repair spray irrigation at city parks. Leak repair, booster pumps, winterization, flow monitoring.
- **Drip Field Maintenance**- Monitor and maintain drip fields at South Regional and Arrowhead Ranch WWTP. We have roughly 65 acres of drip fields we maintain that need to be repaired on a regular basis.

### **Administration Duties:**

- Plan Reviews – Ensure proposed infrastructure is operable and designed in the best interest of the city.

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- System Conveyance – conduct project walks for maintenance bonds as new infrastructure is conveyed to the city and enters into the warranty period. Conduct walkthroughs as warranty expires to ensure infrastructure is intact and operable. Ensure that any damages that have occurred in the warranty period are repaired.

- Utility Commission – report state of water and wastewater systems. Report on major projects, repair efforts, and violations. Report on reclaimed water use.

- Purchase Orders - ensure all major purchases are accounted for and reviewed prior to transaction.

- Compliance Reports – Monthly Effluent Report, Violation Reporting, Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report, Nitrification Action Plan, Total Coliform Reporting, Lead and Copper

- Contracts and Agreements – Review contracts and agreements for purchase, contract work and Utility service. Work with city staff, attorneys, developers, to create and execute contracts in the best interest of the city.

### **Future Projects:**

- West Interceptor – Will serve approximately 3600 LUEs
- East Interceptor - Will serve approximately 8,800 LUEs
- Discharge Plant – Final Phase 822,000gpd
- North Regional Plant – 319,000gpd
- Village Grove Wastewater Plant – 100,000gpd
- Heritage/ Cannon Regional Lift Station – to divert Cannon Ranch, Big Sky, Texas Heritage Village. Grand Prairie Cir, and the North Forty to the East Interceptor

### **Future Subdivisions:**

- New Growth
- Gateway Village
- Wild Ridge
- Cannon Commercial
- Double L

### **FY 2026 Requests:**

- **Vac Truck**-The budget process for this piece of equipment was started in FY2024. The vac truck would allow for emergency cleanup and response to spills and sanitary sewer overflows, lift station cleanings and maintenance, WWTP maintenance, maintain levels in system during construction, and hydro excavation, sewer line maintenance and jetting.
- **Utility Inspector** – Utility inspector position will enforce city policies regarding the City's Drought contingency policy and operation of grease traps connected to City sewer. Perform Customer Service Inspections and Backflow Prevention Inspection. Will coordinate with contract engineers on system conveyance.
- **Fleet Truck**
  - Needed for utility inspector positions and pull equipment. We have six trucks for a staff ten.
- **Project Manager**

## UTILITIES STAFF REPORT – CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

-Coordinate with Contractors on City projects. Pay Apps, deadlines, change orders, built per plan, liaison with inspectors. This position is needed to manage all the future City projects including discharge plant, east interceptor and west interceptor.